



Blake Chard, DSHS Deputy Secretary
Government and Community Affairs



Meet Deputy Secretary Chard

Blake Chard was appointed by Secretary Robin Arnold-Williams on June 1, 2005 to serve as one of two deputy secretaries for the Washington State Department of Social and Health Services. Chard is responsible for increasing the department's emphasis on improving relations with our community and government partners. He is responsible for providing leadership to the following DSHS divisions:

- ◆ Government and Community Relations
- ◆ Communications and Strategic Partnerships
- ◆ Indian Policy and Support Services
- ◆ Diversity Affairs
- ◆ Deaf and Hard of Hearing
- ◆ Vocational Rehabilitation
- ◆ Special Commitment Center
- ◆ Juvenile Justice
- ◆ Homelessness/Housing and Services

Prior to joining DSHS, Blake served as director for the Division of Juvenile Justice Services in the State of Utah. In that role, Blake was responsible for the effective delivery of services for all youth offenders committed to the division by Juvenile Courts for supervision and treatment in the community or for secure confinement. Blake began as director in August 2000.

Prior to this appointment, Blake served four terms with the Utah State House of Representatives, having been initially elected in 1992. During that time he actively participated on a variety of committees, boards and commissions, including the Utah Correctional Industries Advisory Board, the Utah Information Technology Commission, the Juvenile Justice Task Force, and the Executive Offices, Criminal Justice, and Legislature Joint Appropriations Committee.

The deputy secretary is a graduate of Weber State College where he received his bachelor of science degree in Police Science. He continued his education at Brigham Young University where he received his master of Public Administration degree.

Blake previously served six years as a deputy sheriff for Davis County (Utah), 12 years as an engineering specialist for TRW, a defense contractor for the U.S. Air Force, located at Hill Air Force Base, and, prior to joining the Utah Department of Human Services, he served as vice president of SmartUtah. SmartUtah is a non-profit organization that promotes the use of technology in rural Utah.

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